

WIGSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1941.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my third Annual Report on the health of your District.

In accordance with the usual wartime practice, I have included only those matters which are necessary for the maintenance and continuity of the records of the district. At the request of the Ministry of Health, the publication of certain statistics has been suspended and will form the subject of a special post-war supplement.

From the point of view of the general health of the population, I have pleasure in reporting that the year has been entirely satisfactory.

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth rate per thousand estimated resident population 1941..	17.7
Birth rate for England and Wales 1941.....	14.2
Death rate (crude) per thousand estimated population.....	12.3
Death rate (standardised).....	not available
Death rate for England and Wales.....	12.9
Deaths from Puerperal causes:	
Puerperal Sepsis, no. of deaths.....	nil
Other puerperal causes, no. of deaths.....	1
Puerperal mortality rate for England and Wales	
per thousand total live and still births.....	2.23
Deaths of infants under one year of age: Male Female Total	
Legitimate 10 7 17	
Illegitimate 1 nil 1	
Infantile mortality rate per thousand live births.....	70
Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales.....	59

Recording of Vital Statistics during Wartime

The registration of vital statistics has been continued according to the Registrar-General's wartime rules. These were described in full on page 3 of the annual report for last year.

From 1st June, 1941, women belonging to certain branches of H.M. Forces have ceased to be treated as civilians. Any deaths occurring amongst these women have therefore been excluded from local records.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. F. B. Ashbridge for the following details:-

Water Supply, Drainage and Sewage:

There have been no changes of importance in these services apart from the installation of a new electric pump at the Crow Mills Sewage Pumping Station with a capacity of 1020 gallons per minute.

Public Cleansing and Salvage:

An efficient service has been maintained throughout the year.

The quantities of all types of salvage collection compare extremely favourably with other districts of similar population.

Closet Accommodation

Total numbers in the district on 31st December, 1941 -

(a) Privies	nil
(b) Pail closets	24
(c) Water closets	2770

There were no conversions during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Total number of complaints received during the year	133
" " " defects or nuisances discovered	262
" " " inspections	347
" " " " (re-visits)	1205
" " " preliminary notices served (Housing	25
" " " " (Other notices	180
" " " " complied with (Housing	25
" " " " (Other notices	146
" " " notices outstanding on 31st December, 1941	34

No statutory or summary action has been taken during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

Total number of dwelling houses found infested (Council	4
" " " " " houses	
" " " " " (Other houses	7
" " " " " disinfested	11

Inspection of Dwelling Houses

- (a) Total no. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 184
- (b) No. of inspections made for the purpose 694
- No. of dwelling houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925 and 1932 nil
- No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation nil
- No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub head) found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 25
- No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or its officers nil
- No. of defective dwelling houses in respect of which action under statutory powers was taken nil
- No. of cases of overcrowding reported during the yr. 3
- No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the yr. 2.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

Retailers:-	No. on register	68
(other than	No. of inspections of premises	36
cowkeepers)	No. of contraventions found	2
	No. of contraventions remedied	2
Producers:-	No. on register	19
(including those	No. of inspections	46
who retail milk)	No. of contraventions found	7
	No. of contraventions remedied	7

Milk sampling

<u>Designated milk</u>	Total no. of samples taken for bacteriological examination	5
	No. of samples satisfactory	5
	No. of samples not satisfactory	nil
<u>Ordinary milk</u>	Total no. of samples taken for bacteriological examination	76
	64 samples Grade I, 6 Grade II,	
	5 Grade III and 1 Grade IV	

Investigations are made when any samples are found below Grade II and repeat samples are taken.

Meat and Other Foods

There are no regional slaughter houses in the area. 26 animals have been slaughtered in the district during the year. 18 of the carcasses were inspected.

No. of Inspections

Knackers yards	38
Meat Stalls	51
Meat shops and stores	28
Places where food other than meat is kept or prepared for sale	8

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Diphtheria:

The year 1941 was characterised in the Wigston Urban District by an epidemic of diphtheria occurring during the early months of the year. Of the 22 cases occurring in children under the age of 15, 20 occurred during the first few months of the year.

It is of particular interest to note that the tendency for this disease to attack a higher proportion of adults is again evident. Of the 37 cases notified during the year 15 were in persons aged 15 and over.

An extensive campaign for immunisation against diphtheria was carried out during the months of February, March and April, and the high proportion of children immunised during these months may well have been a predominant cause in the sudden decline in the numbers of cases at the end of the 1st quarter of the year. It is particularly noteworthy that no case of true diphtheria occurred among either the 587 children immunised in 1938 or among the 1862 children immunised during 1941. One case notified as diphtheria in an immunised child was subsequently shown to be an error in diagnosis.

At the beginning of the year it was estimated that only 4% of the children under 5 years of age and 23% of those between the ages of 5 and 15 had been immunised. As a result of the energetic immunisation campaign 47.2% of the under fives and 85.5% of the 5-15 age group had been immunised by the 30th September.

Scabies:

A slight increase in the incidence of scabies was noted. The majority of cases were in children and were treated at the school clinic. The number of cases was not sufficient to justify the setting up of a special scabies clinic.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year:-

	Under												*	All	Cases	
	1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Ages	adm. to	Deaths	
														Hosp.		
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Diphtheria	-	-	1	2	1	14	4	5	4	-	1	-	37	37	2	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	3	5	4	7	4	-	3	2	-	-	28	22	-	
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	5	5	-	
Pneumonia	3	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	1	2	1	12		9	
Anterior																
Poliomyelitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
Measles	1	4	7	5	7	20	1	-	1	-	-	-	47	-	1	
Whooping Cough	3	5	5	5	4	6	1	-	1	-	-	-	31	1	-	

* Includes cases for which full details of age are not available. No cases of erysepilas, encephalitis lethargica or puerperal pyrexia were notified.

Tuberculosis

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease were as follows:-

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
15-	1	3	1	-	-	1	1	1
25-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
45-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-
65-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Ages	2	4	1	1	4	2	2	2

EVACUATION

On 31st December, 1940, there were 1,112 evacuees billeted in this district under the Government Evacuation Scheme. A number of these returned to their home towns and the number of evacuees coming into the district during the year was relatively small. On 26th December, 1941, there were 1,129 official evacuees remaining in the area and in addition there were 660 private evacuees responsible for their own arrangements.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I desire to place on record my thanks to the Committee and to the officers and staff of the Council for the co-operation and willing assistance which they have rendered during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALEC E. MARTIN, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.